

REMARKS

In the Office Action, a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121 was issued, which required an election between two groups of claims, in particular between the claims of Group I encompassing structure claims 1-15 and the claims of Group II encompassing method 16-28. Applicants elect, with traverse, the Group II claims for prosecution in this application and has withdrawn the Group I claims.

A review of the claims has revealed, however, that the subject matter of Group I is related to the subject matter of Group II. In particular, claim 16 recites providing a bonding layer on the surface of the substrate; smoothing the bonding layer to provide a surface that is capable of molecular bonding; and molecularly bonding a further layer to the bonding layer to form the structure. Claim 1 recites the structure that is obtained by this process. Therefore, searching with respect to the claims of Groups I and II for this feature would not result in an undue burden on the Examiner and would of necessity be required in order to properly evaluate patentability for either claim Group. Furthermore, there is substantial overlap between the dependent claims of each Group. For these reasons, it is believed that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn and that all claims should be examined together at this time.

Applicant believes that application is now in condition for allowance. The issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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